

COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

- I. Mayor Fred Armstrong called a regular meeting of the City Common Council to order at approximately 7:09 P.M.
 - A. Opening Prayer was given by Greg Tatum, Senior Minister at the First Christian Church.
 - B. Pledge – Mayor Armstrong led the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - C. Roll Call: Present: John Brown, Ann Devore, George Dutro, Thomas Hodek, Martha Myers, August Tindell – Absent Robert Kittle.
 - D. Acceptance of Minutes from the previous meeting: Martha Myers moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting and August Tindell seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
 - E. Tom Hodek made a motion to move Item A. under New Business on the agenda to first item for consideration in order to allow the representatives of the company to leave after their presentation. The motion was seconded by Martha Myers. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
- II. New Business Requiring Council Action.
 - A. Reading of a Resolution entitled “RESOLUTION NO.27, 2004, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CLERK-TREASURER TO EXECUTE STATEMENT OF BENEFIT FORMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN APPLICATION FOR TAX ABATEMENT IN A PREVIOUSLY DESIGNATED ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 6-1.1-12.1-7.” (Toyota Tsusho America, Inc.) Vicky Gochenour of Community Development explained Toyota Tsusho America, Inc. was requesting tax abatement on personal property in conjunction with the purchase and installation of new manufacturing equipment to be located at its present plant located at 5560 South 175 West, Columbus, Indiana costing approximately \$ 2,500,000. Further, they requested a tax abatement on real property in conjunction with an expansion of 20,000 sq. ft. of their present facility, costing approximately \$ 2,000,000. Steve Tames, Senior Manager of Toyota Tsusho spoke about the company. He indicated as a result of the expansion, 24 jobs will be retained and 4 new jobs will be created. Tom Hodek indicated the Incentive Review Committee had met and found Toyota Tsusho to be in substantial compliance. August Tindell moved to approve the tax abatement. Tom Hodek seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
- III. Unfinished Business Requiring Council Action
 - A. First reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO.____, 2004, ANNEXING AND DECLARING TO BE PART OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA, CERTAIN TERRITORY CONTIGUOUS THERETO.” (Cornerstone Commercial West) George Dutro, City Councilman, explained this Ordinance and the next Ordinance on the agenda were a conflict of interest for him and he excused himself.

Laura Thayer indicated this was the public hearing on the annexation. She further reported this annexation meets all the requirements of state law. No one spoke either in favor or against the annexation. Martha Myers moved to place the Ordinance in proper channels. Ann Devore seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

- B. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. 18, 2004, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP, A PART OF TITLE 17 (THE ZONING ORDINANCE) OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 3.6 ACRES, LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CARLOS FOLGER ROAD APPROXIMATELY 500 FEET WEST OF THE EAST INTERSECTION OF CARLOS FOLGER ROAD AND STATE ROAD 46, FROM AG (AGRICULTURE) TO B-4 (HIGHWAY BUSINESS).” (Cornerstone Commercial West) Laura Thayer indicated she would answer any questions on the matter. Martha Myers moved to approve the Ordinance. Ann Devore seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 0.
- C. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO.19, 2004, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING.” Steve Ruble, City Engineer, indicated he had no additional comments but would answer any questions regarding the MPO program. Martha Myers moved to approve the Ordinance. Ann Devore seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
- D. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO.20, 2004, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR BUDGET YEAR 2004.” Ann Devore moved to approve the Ordinance. Tom Hodek seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
- E. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO.21, 2004, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 28, 2003 ENTITLED “THE 2004 SALARY ORDINANCE.” Tom Hodek moved to approve the Ordinance. Ann Devore seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
- F. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO.22, 2004, AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, INDIANA FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2005.” Oakel Hardy stated the Salary and Wage Ordinance reflected a 3% increase in wages. He indicated he would answer any questions regarding the Ordinance. August Tindell moved to approve the Ordinance. Martha Myers seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.
- G. Second reading of an Ordinance entitled “ORDINANCE NO. 23, 2004, ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATIONS AND TAX RATES FOR 2005.” Oakel Hardy gave a presentation showing the City of Columbus assessed valuation history and the tax rate history from 1975 – 2004. He did an overall explanation of the city budget for 2005. Oakel Hardy did ask the Council to pass this Ordinance. He indicated he would later present a Resolution reducing the City Budget as necessary. Don Strittlemeier, representing the Farm Bureau spoke. He stressed the importance of being fiscally responsible and showing restraint in

spending. Discussion followed regarding responsibility to taxpayers. Martha Myers made a motion to approve the Ordinance with the following stipulations. Martha Myers asked that the following commitments be made by the Mayor; 1) by the end of this year (2004) a comprehensive evaluation of the city's insurance program be done including the complete benefit package. This evaluation would include comparing the city's insurance with local industry, showing the cost compared to what is being paid locally 2) the Mayor will initiate a comprehensive ambulance service study to determine the appropriate level of coverage for the entire county 3) there is continued negotiation with Columbus Regional Hospital for ambulance charges for this year. 4) All capital items not related to legal issues are listed as "B" items. In addition to the abovementioned items, Martha added that by budget time 2005, the following matters need to be resolved; 1) the ambulance study will be complete and there will be a plan in place providing for the best service for this community 2) an evaluation is done on the sanitation pilot totter project that identifies its successes and what improvements might be needed to the program along with the plan for funding the program. George Dutro seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

IV. New Business Requiring Council Action

- A. Moved to first (1st) item on agenda.
- B. First reading of an Ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO.____, 2004, AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR 2005." Oakel Hardy reported to the Council that as with other city employees, this Ordinance provided for a 3% salary increase for elected officials. Martha Myers made a motion to amend this Ordinance asking that there be no salary increase for City Council Members. Tom Hodek seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0. Martha Myers moved to place this Amended Ordinance in proper channels. Ann Devore seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

V. Other Business

- A. Reports were given for informational purposes.
- B. The next scheduled meeting of the Common Council is Tuesday, September 21th, 2004 at 7:00 PM in the Cal Brand Meeting Hall.
- C. Adjourn – Martha Myers moved to adjourn. Tom Hodek seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 6 to 0. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 o'clock P.M.

Presiding Officer of the Common Council

Attest:

Columbus City Clerk Treasurer